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CONTACT:

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**U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY APPLAUDS SAUDI EFFORTS TO COMBAT
TERROR FINANCING**

WASHINGTON [July 15, 2009] – United States Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner commended Saudi Arabia Tuesday for the steps it has taken to combat the financing of terrorist groups and the spread of nuclear weapons. Secretary Geithner, visiting Saudi Arabia for the first time since his appointment, addressed the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on July 14. Following his address, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, received Secretary Geithner and his accompanying delegation at the King Fahd Cultural Center in Yanbu.

During his speech, Secretary Geithner praised Saudi Arabia for having "...taken important steps to combat financing for terrorist groups, to deter and disrupt those who support violent extremism, and to join with us in our efforts to combat the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

Secretary Geithner also recognized the historical bilateral economic relationship, stating: "The United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have a long legacy of economic relations." For the past four decades, the U.S. has been Saudi Arabia's largest trading partner, while the Kingdom remains the largest market for American products in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia holds international cooperation as a central component to the success of its counterterrorism efforts. Saudi officials, security and counterterrorism experts work with their counterparts throughout the world to ensure programmatic effectiveness and to maintain cooperation.

During the past decade, Saudi Arabia has taken significant steps to identify and stop financing of terrorism and extremism within its borders and around the world, including a series of financial controls and banking regulations established by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA). In 2005, for example, the Kingdom officially established its Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which is tasked with handling money laundering and terror finance cases. To ensure the success of these regulations, the Kingdom has created special training programs for bankers, prosecutors, judges, customs officers and other officials from government departments and agencies.

For more information on Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism efforts, visit the Saudi Embassy website at www.saudiembassy.net.

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SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF
THE ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN WASHINGTON, DC



July 14, 2009

WAR ON TERROR

Sentences handed down in terror-related cases

On July 5, the Ministry of Justice announced the conviction of that 323 of the 330 terror-suspects put on trial on 179 terror-related charges in special security courts under article 126 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The defendants were charged with a number of crimes, including membership in a terrorist organization and its activities; facilitating and financing terrorism; working with foreign parties to undermine national security; treason; and traveling abroad to fight in places of sedition or initiating such action.

During a July 13 press conference, Ministry of Justice Spokesman Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Saadon announced that of the 330 terror-suspect tried, seven were acquitted, and 323 received jail sentences varying from a few months to 30 years, with thirteen receiving sentences of more than twenty years. Fifteen were sentenced to pay a fine in addition to their prison terms. One person was given the death penalty. Of those convicted, forty-one were foreign nationals.

Dr. Al-Saadon noted that the convictions may be appealed to the Supreme Court and those acquitted may file for compensation against the state. He added that although some opted to defend themselves, each suspect was informed of their right to an attorney during the proceedings.

U.S. officials commend Saudi detainee rehabilitation program

During a Congressional hearing on July 7, officials from the U.S. Departments of Defense and Justice commended Saudi Arabia's Care Rehabilitation Center for detainees. The hearing was convened by the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss the legal proceedings against prisoners being held at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay. During the hearing, Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC) called upon the U.S. government to work with Middle Eastern countries with a record of successful prisoner rehabilitation, noting the effectiveness of the Kingdom's program.

"The Saudis have actually institutionalized a rehabilitation program that is developed by the Minister of Interior to de-radicalize and rehabilitate the former detainees for reintegration into the society in Saudi Arabia," Sen. Hagan said. "According to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Saudi Arabia remains one of the most reliable counterterrorism partners in accepting detainees that have transferred from

Guantanamo Bay."

Defense Department General Counsel Jeh Johnson said the U.S. should encourage and promote Saudi-style rehabilitation programs. David Kris, Assistant Attorney General in the National Security Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, described the Saudi rehabilitation program as "excellent."

SAUDI ARABIA

Kingdom adopts tough new penalties for human trafficking

The Council of Ministers adopted tough new penalties for human trafficking on July 13. The new law bans all forms of human trafficking and establishes a sentence of up to 15 years and/or a fine of up to one million riyals [\$267,000]. The law includes a more severe penalty if the victims are women, minors, or persons with special needs. Penalties were also increased for perpetrators found to be a guardian or to have had authority over the victim; an official of the regulations' enforcement; or to have exploited a close relative of the victim.

The Council also announced they would establish a ministerial-level committee in the Human Rights Commission to combat human trafficking. The committee will be composed of representatives of the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Social Affairs, Labor, Culture and Information, and the Human Rights Commission.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi aid enters Gaza

Seventeen trucks carrying 320 tons of aid provided by Saudi Arabia for the Palestinian people entered Gaza July 7 through the Karam Abu Salem Port.

Saudi airlift delivers aid to Sri Lanka

In implementation of the directives of King Abdullah, two Saudi relief planes arrived Sri Lanka last week delivering more than 100,000 tons of humanitarian aid. Sri Lanka is currently suffering through a humanitarian crisis that has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people.



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SAUDI ARABIA ANNOUNCES INCREASED PENALTIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

WASHINGTON [July 14, 2009] — The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Council of Ministers ratified a law on July 13 that adopted a tougher stance on human trafficking. The new law will ban all forms of human trafficking and put in place more severe consequences, including a sentence of up to 15 years and/or a fine of up to \$267,000.

"Saudi Arabia will spare no effort to prevent all types of mistreatment against human beings and will pursue and punish those involved in such criminal offences to the fullest extend of the law," stated Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz.

The law includes a more severe penalty if the victims are women, minors, or persons with special needs. Penalties were also increased for perpetrators found to be a guardian or to have had authority over the victim; an official of the regulations' enforcement; or to have exploited a close relative of the victim.

The new law defines human trafficking as: coercion of a person, threat, deception, deceit or abduction, misuse of position, influence or authority against a person, taking advantage of their weakness, or giving or receiving money or enticements to gain the approval a person for sexual acts, work, coercive service, begging, slavery, practices similar to slavery, organ removal or performance of medical tests on a person.

The Council of Ministers also announced they would establish a ministerial-level committee in the Human Rights Commission composes of representatives from the ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Social Affairs, Labor, Culture and Information, and the Human Rights Commission, that is responsible for combating human trafficking.

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SAUDI ARABIA CONVICTS 323 TERROR SUSPECTS

WASHINGTON [July 14, 2009] -- Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Justice released more details on the rulings announced on July 8, 2009 regarding 330 terror-suspects indicted on 179 terror-related cases.

Detailing the results of the Saudi Arabia's successful efforts to track, arrest and bring to justice terror suspects, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Saadon, a spokesman for the Ministry of Justice, announced during a press conference yesterday, that of the 330 terror-suspect tried, seven were acquitted, 323 received jail sentences—varying from a few months to 30 years, with 13 received sentences of more than 20 years; 15 were sentenced to pay a fine in addition to their prison terms; one person was given the death sentence. Under Saudi law, the convictions may be appealed to the Supreme Court.

"Saudi Arabia is fully committed to preventing terrorism and punishing those who would target innocents in the Kingdom and around the world," Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Adel A. Al-Jubeir, said today. "The conviction of these terrorists should serve as an example to others; terrorists will be pursued, will be captured and will be punished."

Al-Saadon added that 42 of the convicted terrorists will not be released from prison following their sentence unless they have repented before the judiciary. An additional 15 will be sentenced to house arrest following the completion of their prison term. Three were barred from travelling abroad.

The Ministry of Justice is currently planning to allow the press to cover subsequent trials; however, priority will be given to the relatives of victims and those on trial based and judges have the right to close all or part of the trial for reasons of national security.

Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz recently announced that militants have been responsible for more than 30 attacks in the Kingdom since May 2003; however, Saudi Arabia has not experienced an attack since February 2006. Ninety civilians and 74 members of the security forces have been killed, while 439 civilians and 657 members of the security forces have been injured. Saudi security forces have been instrumental in preventing 160 terrorist attacks.

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